

60,469-025

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 14 remain in the application including independent claim 1. Claims 2-12 and 15-18 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 13 has been cancelled. New claims 19-26 have been added including independent claim 19. Claims 19-26 each read on the elected embodiment of Figure 11.

Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by Gschwendtner et al. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pallinger et al. and Nakazawa et al. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gschwendtner alone.


Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the module comprises a steel sheet covering an escalator machine with the steel sheet presenting a continuous planar exterior surface. None of the cited references disclose this feature. Each of the references teaches the use of tubular members forming a lattice-like support frame (See Figures 2 and 8 of Gschwendtner, Figure 1 of Nakazawa, and Figure 4 of Pallinger).

For similar reasons, none of the cited references disclose, suggest, or teach the features set forth in new claims 19-26.

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Applicant believes that all claims are allowable over the cited prior art. An indication of such is requested. Applicant believes that no additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional claim fees.

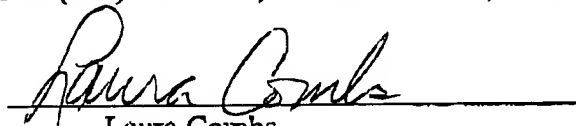
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 305-7687, on December 23, 2002.


Laura Combs

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APPENDIX A
Claims

(Version With Markings to Show Changes Made)

1. (Amended) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:
 - a bottom landing support;
 - a top landing support; and
 - a rise for interconnecting said bottom landing support to said top landing supportwherein said rise includes at least one module wherein the module comprises a steel sheet covering an escalator machine, said steel sheet presenting a continuous planar exterior surface.

14. (Amended) The assembly of claim [13] 1, wherein the steel sheet module is welded to other portions of the rise along edges of said steel sheet such that said module completely encloses the escalator machine.